sals are received. The target set for 1987-88 is expected to be met by the end of the year.

Speed Post Service in the Country

2909. SHRI T. R. BALU:

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the cities presently linked by speed post within the country;

(b) the names of the cities linked by speed post within the country to cities/countries abroad; and

(c) which are the countries abroad and cities inside are going to be linked by Speed Post in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Cities presently linked by speed post within the country are: Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Madras; Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kanpur, Pune, Vadadara Indore, Guwahati, Cochin, Agartala and Silchar. Five extension counters only for booking speed post items have been provided at Faridabad, Ghaziabad, Thane, Surat and Hosur.

(b) All the cities referred to at (a) above are also on the International speed post network.

(c) The establishment of Speed Post links with more countries and the extension of the speed post network to more cities in India is a continuous process. Proposals for the establishment of new links are received from other postal administrations and each case is examined with reference to the terms and conditions offered traffic potential, etc. and appropriate decisions are taken accordingly. New centres within the country are established depending upon the availability of suitable air/train outlets and the traffic potential.

Himsagar Express

2910. SHRI T. R. BALU:

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times Railways cancelled Himsagar Express during the last three years; yearwise figures;

(b) what are the reasons for frequent cancellation of this longest distance Superfast Express;

(c) whether it is a fact that only old and very depleted and worn out coaches fit only for Railway museum are attached to this Superfast Express;

(d) the number of coaches attached to this train as on date; and

(e) what is the year of manufacturing of each coach?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) 1984-85: Once in either direction.

1985-86: Once in either direction.
1986-87: Nil.

(b) The train was cancelled only twice during the last three years, once due to civil disturbances and due to cyclone on the other occassion which was unavoidable.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The train is scheduled to run with 15 coaches.

(e) A statement is enclosed.